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ABSTRACT

The Institute for Earth Education is a nonprofit volunteer group made up of an international network of individuals and member organizations devoted to helping people live more lightly on the earth. This book proposes an alternative path to solve environmental problems. The program, called the earth education path, seeks to accomplish one of environmental education's objectives-- to help people improve upon their cognitive and affective relationship with the earth's natural communities and life support systems, and begin crafting lifestyles that will lessen adverse human impact upon those places and processes. The book is presented in six chapters. Chapter 1 describes how prior environmental education efforts have not accomplished their goals. Chapter 2 discusses the development of a sense of relationship with the earth. Chapters 3-5 present the principles of earth education in three components: the whys, the whats, and the ways. The whys include preserving the earth, nurturing the earth, and training earth advocates. The whats include understanding the ecological systems and communities of the planet, instilling in people deep emotional attachments to the earth and its life, and helping people change the way they live on the earth. The ways include structuring learning experiences that focus on specific outcomes, immersing people in firsthand contact with the natural world, and providing people time to be alone in natural settings to reflect on all life. Chapter 6 describes seven steps to build your own earth education program. An index is provided. (MDH)

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